United Nations E/AC.51/2006/L.4/Add.34

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
7 September 2006

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-sixth session
14 August-8 September 2006
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 26
Jointly financed activities

1. At its 18th meeting, on 29 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 26, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 26)).

2. The representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. General support was expressed for the programme. The value and importance of the activities proposed in programme 26 were recognized.

4. Regarding component A, International Civil Service Commission, the importance of the independence of the Commission was stressed. Clarification was sought with respect to the study on further development and strengthening of a common system of salaries, allowances and benefits as mentioned in paragraph 26.2 (a) of the report. Clarification was also sought with respect to the use of the word "maintenance" rather than "increase" in the indicators of achievement.

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5. Regarding component B, Joint Inspection Unit, satisfaction was expressed with respect to the reference to coordination with other organs to avoid duplication and achieve synergies under paragraph 26.5 (c).

6. Regarding component C, United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the view was expressed that the formulation of the framework was vague. Further information was sought on how to improve dialogue and cooperation between CEB and the Committee. With respect to the overall orientation, it was noted with concern that the Board's focus had shifted from "promoting greater synergies" in the biennium 2006-2007 to "greater coherence among the organizations". The use of the phrase "human security" was questioned in view of the lack of agreement among Member States on this phrase. It was further stressed that CEB should continue to enhance and monitor system-wide efforts to fight poverty and hunger. With respect to expected accomplishment (a), concern was expressed with respect to the change from "increased collaboration and coordination among member organizations in response to decisions of intergovernmental bodies" in the biennium 2006-2007 to "enhanced horizontal cooperation". A question was raised as to whether indicator of achievement (a) could be used to evaluate the related expected accomplishment.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 26, Jointly financed activities, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

C. United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Overall orientation

Paragraph 26.7

Delete the first sentence and insert the following text: "26.7 In the biennium 2008-2009, CEB will focus its work on accelerating progress in the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. To this end, CEB will ensure greater coherence among the organizations of the system."

In the second sentence, replace the words "better managing knowledge" with "improving knowledge management".

Delete the third sentence.

After the former fourth sentence, add a new sentence reading "CEB will continue to enhance and monitor the effective coordination of system-wide efforts against hunger and poverty."

In the penultimate sentence, replace the words "increased platforms" with the words "improved platforms".

In the last sentence, replace the words "mutual aims" with the words "common goals" and replace the word "dynamic" with the word "timely",

and delete the words "and the provision of system-wide analysis of emerging challenges that will assist Member States in taking decisions relevant to the work of the system".

Expected accomplishments

Revise expected accomplishment (a) to read: "Enhanced horizontal cooperation among member organizations in response to decisions of intergovernmental bodies".

Indicators of achievement

Reletter indicator (a) as (a) (i) and add a new indicator (ii) reading: "(ii) Number of joint or complementary programmes and projects with strategic impact, task-specific inter-agency networking, time-bound working groups and other facilitating initiatives and activities to strengthen system-wide follow-up to intergovernmental decisions".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Part One
Plan outline

1. At its 7th meeting, on 21 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered Part One, Plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 (A/61/6 (Part One)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the document.

Discussion

3. It was recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, affirmed that the strategic framework, consisting of Part One, Plan outline, and Part Two, Biennial programme plan, constituted the principal policy directive of the United Nations. It was also recalled that in the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to review the strategic framework at its sixty-second session.

4. It was noted that the plan outline was general in nature and summarized some parts of the World Summit Outcome. The view was expressed that a number of areas were not adequately covered in the plan outline, including poverty eradication, Africa's needs, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Middle East crisis, HIV/AIDS, disarmament, climate change, globalization, racism and diseases

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such as malaria and tuberculosis. Concern was expressed that the document did not reflect longer-term objectives. It was pointed out that many programmes did not end after two years and the reflection of longer-term objectives was an important element of the revisions approved in resolution 58.269.

5. The view was expressed that part one focused on format and, unfortunately, did not provide an idea of the challenges facing the Organization. In that regard, the view was expressed that the document should also reflect lessons learned and positive experiences of the past period, and strategies to reform the Organization. It was pointed out that the strategic framework would be the basis for preparation of the budget and the document was an important one for both Member States and programme managers.

6. It was recalled that at its forty-fourth session, the Committee had been unable to reach a position on the previous proposed plan outline and a position had been reached only on the priorities and the biennial programme plan. Support was expressed for the maintenance of the priorities as proposed for the period 2008-2009.

7. It was recognized that there was a link between part one and part two and the importance of programme manager involvement in the preparation of part one was emphasized. It was pointed out that the programme plan had to set forth the goal of programmes, which were under the responsibility of programme managers and, where possible, should not be mixed with responsibilities of Member States. It was noted that in the biennial programme plan, the practice in place required the reflection of indicators of achievement, but not baselines and targets. The view was expressed that more attention should be paid to standard setting and that should be taken into account in legislative mandates. Concern was expressed that only a few specialized intergovernmental bodies had reviewed the biennial programme plan and made recommendations. It was noted that more needed to be done in the area of programme evaluation and the Organization should take the appropriate steps.

8. It was recalled that that was the third plan using the logical framework and it was stressed that more consistency was required across programmes. It was noted that some indicators of achievement seemed appropriate and useful, while others needed to be refined. It was acknowledged that there was improvement, but it was also pointed out that, in some cases, it was necessary to refine indicators of achievement, which were sometimes not linked to the expected accomplishments.

9. It was noted that the "objective of the Organization" should be replaced with the "objective of subprogramme" throughout the document "Strategic framework for the period 2008-2009". It was indicated that that amendment would allow the Committee to identify specific goals of the United Nations Secretariat and to distinguish between them and the objectives of the Organization, thus promoting the managerial responsibility of the Secretariat.

10. It was indicated that a delegation would not participate in discussions of language proposals concerning the strategic framework in the absence of concrete, meaningful progress in the Committee's working methods and procedures. At the same time, it was indicated that the absence of such interventions did not convey or imply support, and the right to take a position on those issues was reserved, pending assessment of overall accomplishments at the conclusion of the forty-sixth session of the Committee. Furthermore, it was stated that the delegation would continue to

keep an open mind when the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination was submitted to the Fifth Committee later in the year.

11. It was noted that consideration of document A/60/537 would be in line with the relevant decisions already taken by the General Assembly, as noted in document A/61/131.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. **The Committee stressed that the plan outline should represent the longer-term objectives of the Organization, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/269. In that regard, the Committee stressed the importance of ensuring that efforts to implement the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the major international conferences and summits were accurately captured in the next plan outline.**

13. **The Committee recommended that, at the stage of strategic framework preparation, the Secretariat should formulate expected accomplishments in a way that ensured that, at the stage of budget preparation, all activities and outputs mandated by Member States were included.**

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly encourage programme managers to continue their efforts to improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievement to enable better evaluation of qualitative changes in services provided.**

15. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include in future biennial programme plans a table with information for each programme, setting out the entities responsible for each subprogramme.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the priorities for the period 2008-2009 contained in paragraph 9 of the plan outline.**

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to revise the plan outline (Part One) of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 so as to ensure that it accurately captured the longer-term objectives of the Organization based on mandates that had been approved by Member States.**

18. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly review the plan outline (Part One) of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 so that it more accurately reflected the longer-term objectives of the Organization.**